

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
123 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Ryan, Chairman Bishop and Chairman Frelinghuysen:

In the coming weeks, Congress will consider supplemental appropriations legislation for areas affected by recent hurricanes, including Puerto Rico. Nearly two months after Hurricane Maria made landfall, the Island is still struggling to regain any sense of normalcy. While some progress has been made, the lack of a stable energy grid and the destruction of housing and key infrastructure will require years to rebuild. As with Texas post-Harvey and Florida post-Irma, Puerto Rico will require substantial federal investment.

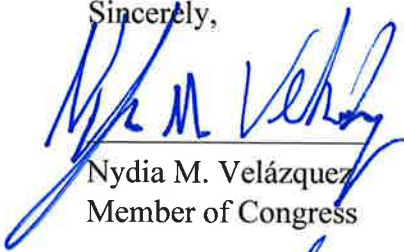
Unfortunately, recent congressional hearings concerning the Island have centered on the mistrust of Puerto Rico's government and the potential need to provide the Oversight Board established under Title I of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. §2121) with additional authorities. We agree that taxpayers must have confidence in the rebuilding of Puerto Rico, which requires transparency and accountability; however, a move by Congress to reopen PROMESA and broadly expand the Board's powers would be a mistake. The Board's statutory mission is to oversee the Island's finances and provide a pathway for debt restructuring (which is well underway), not to operate a parallel government that could stymie and complicate recovery efforts.

Given that PROMESA has only been law for 17 months, we should instead be allowing the Board to use the tools it has been provided rather than tinker with its authorities. Reopening PROMESA and broadly expanding its powers will only further confusion as to the role of Puerto Rico's elected

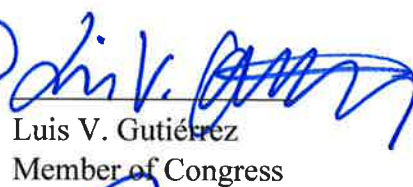
government vis-à-vis the Board. At a time when the Island needs all resources focused on recovery efforts, wholesale changes to PROMESA and the Board are the last things Puerto Rico needs to be dealing with right now.

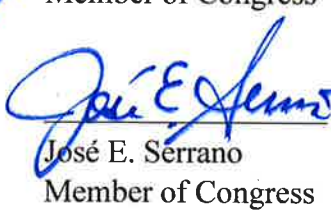
For this reason, we urge you to not amend PROMESA. While this legislation was far from perfect when it was signed into law, it was the product of many tough months of bipartisan negotiations. As a result, we believe the Board already possesses the necessary tools to oversee the Island's finances and, when combined with the federal government's existing authorities regarding the use of disaster funds, should be sufficient to protect U.S. taxpayers' interests.

Sincerely,

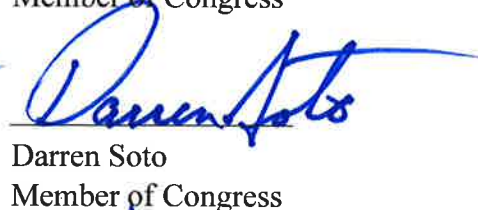

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

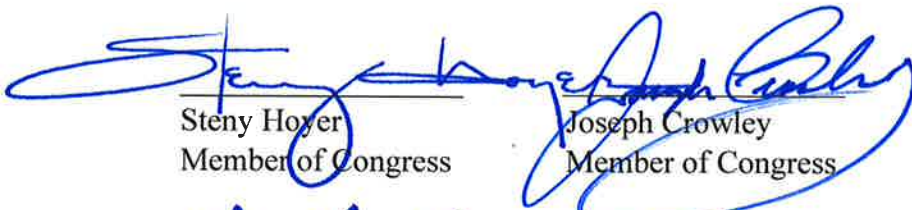

Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress


Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

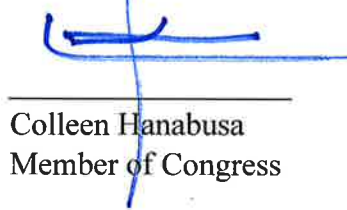

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

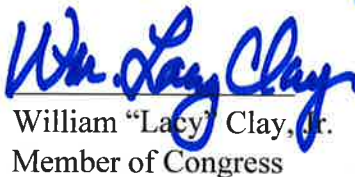

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

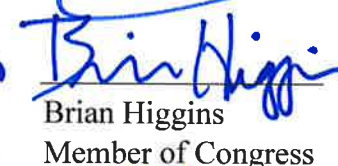

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

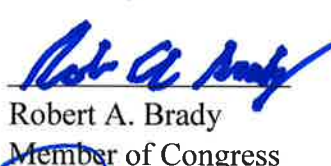

Steny Hoyer
Member of Congress

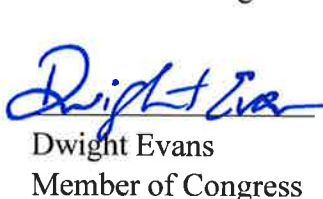

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress


Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

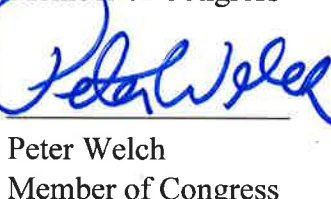

William "Lacy" Clay, Jr.
Member of Congress

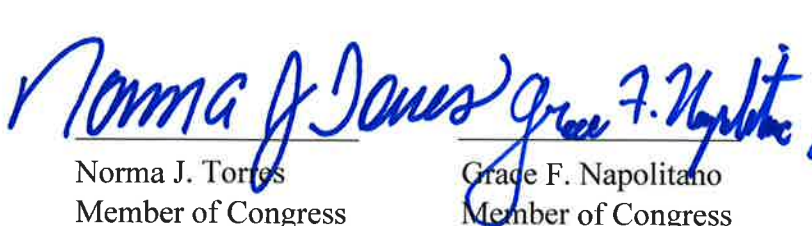

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

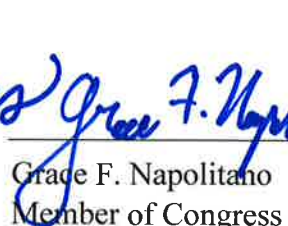

Robert A. Brady
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Dwight Evans
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Richard Neal
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Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
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Grace F. Napolitano
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Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

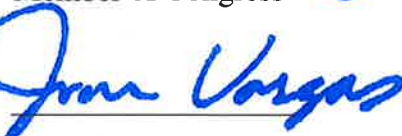

Grace Meng
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Charlie Crist
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Jerrold Nadler
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Juan Vargas
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Jimmy Gomez
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Paul Tonko
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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Donald Norcross
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James P. McGovern
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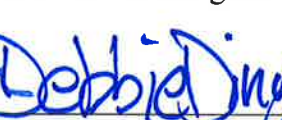

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

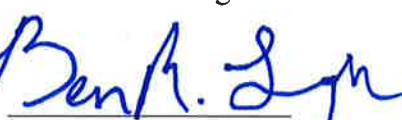

Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress


Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

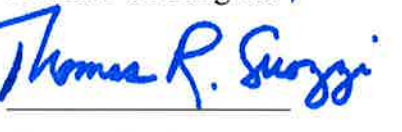

Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

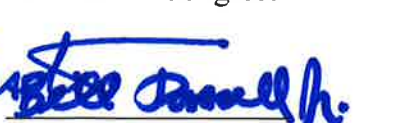

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
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Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress


Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress


Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Cc: House Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi
Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations, Nita M. Lowey